(b) by when decision is likely to be taken on these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) IDBI has reported that there are two term loan proposals of cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra pending with financial institutions. Decision on these proposals is expected to be taken shortly.

Textile mills lying closed in the country

1953. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be *pleased to state:*

(a) what is the number of textile mills lying closed in the country at present;

(b) what is the number of such mills which belong to the NTC;

(c) what is the number of workers who have become jobless due to the closing down of these mills; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Seventy four cotton Textile Mills were closed as at the end of July, 1986.

(b) The number of such NTC owned/managed mills is three.

(c) The number of workers affected is 103259.

(d) A rehabilitation Fund has been created to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of textile mills. According to this scheme, a displaced worker will get a tapering amount for three years, at the rate of 75 per cent of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year.

Tax holiday enjoyed by Free Trade Zone units

1954. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the five year tax holiday currently being enjoyed by units in the free trade zones (FTZs) is proposed to be extended for another three years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No Sir. However the present tax holiday of five consecutive years has been proposed to be permitted to be chosen out of the initial eight assessment years commencing from the assessment year relating to the previous year in which such concerns commence manufacture or production.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of a Regional Office of L.I.C. in Andhra Pradesh

1955. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Regional Office of the Life Insurance Corporation is at present located at Madras and the policyholders of Andhra Pradesh have to depend upon this Office for redressal of their grievances;

(b) whether the Corporation has any plan to open a Regional Office in Hyderabad or in any other town of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be set up and if not, what are the reasons therefor?